AMENDMENTS

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-56 (Cancelled)

57. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide **encoding the protein, wherein the polynucleotide has** ~~having~~ at least one of the following properties:

a) it comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof; or

b) it hybridizes at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10;

wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF is expressed.

58. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.

59. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.

60. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof.

61. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ **at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide** to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

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~~62.~~ *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof.

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~~63.~~ *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof.

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~~64.~~ *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof.

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~~65.~~ *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof.

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~~66.~~ *(Previously presented)* The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof.

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~~67.~~ *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof.

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~~68.~~ **(Withdrawn) (Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ **at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide** to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.

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~~69.~~ **(Withdrawn) (Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ **at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50% formamide** to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.

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~~70.~~ **(Withdrawn) (Currently amended)** The method of claim ~~57~~, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes ~~under stringent conditions~~ **at 30°C in 6 × SSC**

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containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID
NO:6.

71. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the
polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC
containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID
NO:8.

72. (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide
hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC containing 50%
formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.

73. (Withdrawn) (Currently amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the
polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions at 30°C in 6 × SSC
containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID
NO:10.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the protein is a
metalloprotease.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the protein is a
metalloprotease.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the protein is a
metalloprotease.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the protein is a
metalloprotease.

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79. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 24, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.

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80. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 22, wherein the protein is a

metalloprotease.